

costs; and, of course, control utilization. How do you do that? Certainly, each of us has to have a little participation in the cost. We want top-quality care.

My time has about expired. I want to make the point that we have some opportunities always, but particularly on those three bills. There will be others that will help shape the future. Education, of course, is another one. Where do we want to be over a period of time?

I am hopeful that in addition to doing those things—obviously, in the short term—we will also measure what we do and how it will impact what we give when the time comes for us to deal with it in the future.

I think my time has expired. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I want to summarize where we are on the comprehensive energy legislation issue that all of us are interested in moving ahead, and to tell you my perspective on it at this point.

As we began the year, we identified two sets of issues. There were the short-term challenges we faced as a country, and then there were the more long-term issues. The short-term challenges included the very high prices for electricity in California, which I think all of us recognized at that time were not just unreasonable but were exorbitant really for many residents in California. Really, the wholesale prices, being very high, were not being passed on to consumers at that time, although the consumer retail prices started to reflect those high prices that had been charged for such a long time.

Second, of course, natural gas prices were very high. That was a concern.

A third short-term concern was the inadequacy of funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. That is the program Congress put in place many years ago to help low-income families in this country pay their utility bills. The demand on that program was so great during this last winter, and even into this spring and early summer, that most States that operate that program, and are dependent on Federal funds to do so, were out of funding. So that was another short-term problem we needed to address.

Fortunately, most of these short-term issues have been addressed in some significant way. The price of wholesale power in California has come down, perhaps not as far as it eventually will and should, but it has come down substantially. The price of natural gas has come down. Again, that is not being reflected to the extent it should as yet in home utility bills, but that hopefully will happen quickly, too.

As to the LIHEAP program—the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—we have put \$300 million of new funding into the supplemental appropriations bill that we sent to the President to try to keep that program functioning through the rest of this summer.

So those are short-term issues we have seen resolved to some extent. And I feel good about that.

There remain, however, a great many long-term challenges that the country has in dealing with its energy future. Let me mention a few of those because I believe we can work in a bipartisan way to deal with them to help resolve those issues.

One, of course, is supply. We do not have assured adequate supply going forward over the next several years. We need to look at ways to increase supply. One is affordability. We are concerned about the price of the various sources of energy: Electricity, natural gas, gasoline at the pump.

Efficiency in the use of energy is a major challenge. We have tremendous inefficiency in power production in this country. We need to find ways to increase efficiency in that respect. In many cases, two-thirds of essentially all the power for fuel going into our power plants is lost because of inefficiency in power production.

I believe we all want less pollution from the burning of fossil fuels. I think we have come to recognize that as fossil fuels burn we do have pollution. We need to find ways to diminish that. We need more diversity in our fuel supply. We need to shift to more use of renewable energy, to the extent the technology permits that, and to the extent the cost of producing that renewable energy permits.

So we have a great many long-term goals that the country wants to achieve. I believe we can do that. I think we can do it in this Congress. I think we can do it in this session of this Congress.

The President, to his credit, has presented the country with a national energy plan. There has been a lot of criticism of parts of that plan. I share some of that criticism. But I do think the President should receive credit for having made this a priority issue for the country. He has said this is something he thinks needs to be addressed. I agree with that; this is something that needs to be addressed.

We need to pass an energy bill addressing these long-term concerns. The House of Representatives is expected to

act this week on a major energy bill. There will be substantial controversy about some of the provisions in that bill. And there are, frankly, several provisions in the bill, as it comes to this Chamber, with which I do not agree.

I do not agree with the proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling and exploration. I do not think that is a substantial solution to our problems. I do not believe we should produce legislation to accomplish that, and send it to the President, even though he has requested that we do so. So that is one point of disagreement.

I hope very much that we will do something significant to improve vehicle fuel efficiency. We are always concerned about the growing dependence on foreign sources of oil. And those sources are growing. We import a tremendous amount of oil. Most of that goes into the transportation sector, and most of that for cars and light-duty vehicles of various kinds. So we need to find ways to increase vehicle fuel efficiency. We can do that as well.

Let me say there are a great many other challenges we also have. I know time is short. I intend to begin a markup of an energy bill in the Energy Committee this Wednesday. I hope we can move ahead on a bipartisan basis. Then we can also set the framework for moving ahead, when the Congress returns in September, on the balance of a comprehensive bill.

This is something that will benefit the country; it is something we can do in the Senate; and we can do it on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the Senator leaves, I ask if he will respond to a question I have about the energy bill.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I am pleased to respond.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through you to my friend from New Mexico, I was speaking with Senator LUGAR. One of the things that has so intrigued me about the legislation you will mark up is that there is a section in the bill that deals with renewables; is that right?

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, we will have a section in the bill dealing with renewable energy production. The one we are marking up this Wednesday deals with research and development and training programs. When we come back in September, we expect to have a section dealing with renewable energy production.

Mr. REID. There isn't any one answer to the energy problem, is there? It is a combination of solutions that you have talked about, such as renewables. It is going to take a lot of cooperation and partnering to be able to answer the energy needs of this country; is that right?

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, in answer to the Senator, he is exactly right. There are a variety of technologies that can help us to meet our

energy needs. There are a variety of sources for energy production. We need to move ahead on each of them. That is my view.

Mr. REID. There is no magic bullet, not one thing that is going to solve all the problems of energy relating to our country's needs; is that true?

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, again, that is certainly my view. There is no single solution to the problem. We need to make progress on increased energy supplies from a great many sources. We need to make progress on more efficiency in various ways. Clearly, we need to do a better job of conserving the energy we do produce.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time for morning business has expired. Morning business is closed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the matter now before the Senate?

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 1246, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the consideration of (S. 1246) a bill to respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American agriculture producers.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spoken to one of the managers of the bill, Senator LUGAR, for a few minutes. He has now left the Chamber. Senator HARKIN will be here probably around 2:30. Senator LUGAR and I thought it would be appropriate, until the two managers arrive, if anyone wants to speak on this bill or agricultural matters in general, they should feel free to do so.

If not, I respectfully suggest that we should move to morning business until the two managers are ready to move forward on this most important legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

ANWR

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, unfortunately, the Senator from New

Mexico, chairman of the Energy Committee, is not in the Chamber now. I had hoped to be able to pose a question to him.

That question would have been regarding his comment indicating he was opposed to opening ANWR. He did not give a reason why, nor did he have to. I hope we will have an opportunity on this particular issue to have a good debate, a debate that evaluates the issue in its entirety.

One of the things I keep referring to, with which the occupant of the Chair has some familiarity, is the unique circumstances surrounding a very small number of aboriginal residents of the north slope, the residents of Kaktovik. Their particular plight lends itself to some consideration by this body.

I don't think I will have the opportunity of using the charts, but I can probably show this better if one of the gentlemen will go back and I can get them to show the actual ownership in the 1002 area of the 92,000 acres of land that is owned by these aboriginal people.

This is the historical land of their birthright. It is their village land. As a consequence of the manner in which the Federal Government chose the structure of management of the 1002 area and the surrounding area associated within ANWR, we found an enclave of 92,000 acres of private land that could not be utilized by the villagers who own the land.

One has to address the propriety of what private land is all about, if indeed you can't use it. This particular area is in such a specific directive from Congress that the residents, the owners can't even drill for natural gas to heat their homes, let alone develop any of the subsurface rights for their where-withal, simply because there is no way to access the area without trespassing on Federal land. This doesn't seem reasonable or fair.

I am sorry to say the charts have gone back to my office. I will have to address this matter again with a visual presentation.

These are the kinds of considerations that aren't addressed and would be addressed in the proposed legislation to authorize the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Why should this group of Alaska Eskimos be denied the birthright to resource their land as any other American citizen would?

This is just one inconsistency associated with this issue. It is a type of issue that would fall on the ears of many in this body who believe in fairness and equity. That is a factor in the consideration of the merits.

I am continually confronted with Members who say: I am opposed to it. They are very reluctant to get into a debate as to why. The rationale is pretty obvious. There is a lot of pressure from America's environmental community. America's environmental community has generated an awful lot of membership and dollars by taking a stand on this issue and laying down a

fear that somehow we cannot open this area safely or that somehow it is contrary to traditional use to drill in a refuge.

As I have indicated earlier in my presentation today, we have oil and gas drilling in 30 refuges in this country. We have 118 refuges where there is actual oil, gas, and minerals. There are over 400 wells in the refuges in Louisiana. We have them in New Mexico. Why is it inappropriate to suddenly say we cannot allow drilling in the 1002 refuge area when we have advanced technology? There is no justifiable reason other than the pressure that is brought on Members by the environmental community. That is the kind of debate I hope we can get into.

I would like to see scientific evidence that suggests, if indeed there is a rationale to support it, that we can't do it correctly; scientific evidence to suggest that Prudhoe Bay is not the best oil field in the world in its 30-year old technology; scientific evidence to suggest that this won't create literally thousands of new jobs, such as 700,000, in the United States. Almost every State in the Union would benefit from this.

I would like to hear a debate as to why it is in the interest this country to become more dependent on the Saddam Husseins of this world. That is what has happened. As we know, 6 weeks ago, we were at 750,000 barrels a day. Today we are a million barrels a day. Are we here to do what is right for America or are we here to simply respond to the pressures of America's environmental community as it laments on fear tactics that are not based on any scientifically sound research?

That is the reality with which we are faced. As we look at what is happening in the House of Representatives this week, they are going to take up the issue.

There is going to be a motion to strike ANWR from the energy bill. It is kind of amazing to me to see what is happening over there because organized labor suddenly has said this is a jobs issue; that we are losing jobs all over the United States. But right now the one item that we can identify that would allow for the creation of thousands of new jobs is opening this area. So it is an argument as to whether you can do it safely; whether we can protect the Porcupine caribou herd; whether we can get the oil on line soon enough—in 3½ years—or whether it is a substantial supply.

As I have indicated, if it is there in the abundance it would have to be to replace what we import from Saudi Arabia in a 3-year period of time, can we do it safely? There is no evidence to suggest that we can't. These are the discussions that we will have. I hope every Member will encourage open debate on this floor on the merits of opening ANWR. I have heard people say, "I would rather this didn't come up" and "I would rather we didn't have to vote on this" and "it makes me feel uncomfortable."